

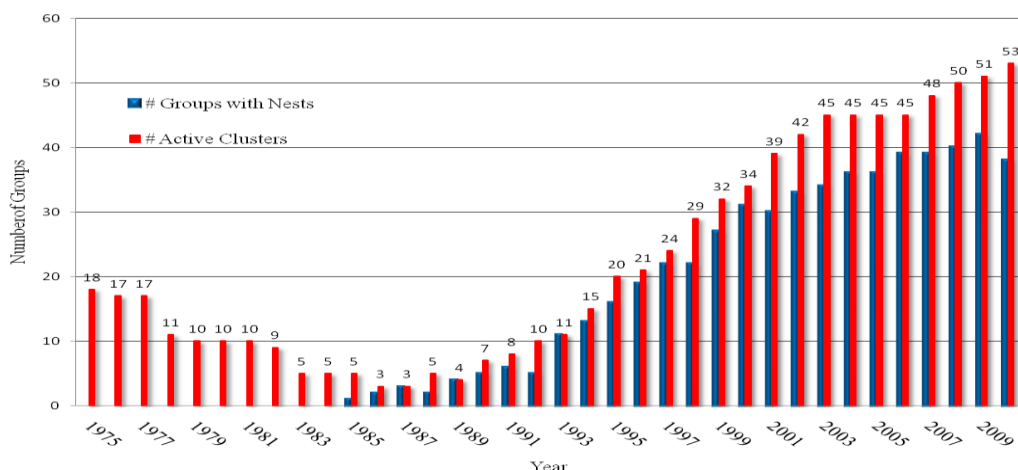


USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) Fiscal Year 2010 Savannah River Site Environmental Report

In support of the environmental stewardship mission, USFS-SR manages the natural resources at the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS). Operating under an interagency agreement with DOE-Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SROO), USFS-SR follows SRS Strategic Plan goals and objectives to implement the [*United States Department of Energy Natural Resources Management Plan for the Savannah River Site*](#).

Maintained and improved habitat to meet recovery population objectives for Threatened, Endangered, and sensitive species

USFS-SR continued to improve habitat conditions for the endangered [*Red-cockaded woodpecker*](#) (RCW) by removing brush and small hardwood vegetation in 1,411 acres of the longleaf pine forest. Additionally, our use of prescribed fire not only reduced hazardous forest fuel, but it also helped remove midstory vegetation in the longleaf pine forest, another means of habitat improvement. Successful habitat manipulation increased the number of active groups from two in 1984 to 53 in Fiscal Year 2010.



Number of red-cockaded woodpecker active groups at SRS

Evaluated the effects of management on the environment

Teaming with a number of universities, as well as the USDA Forest Service Research Stations, USFS-SR has added applied knowledge and understanding that supports our interagency agreement scope of work. The following examples are projects that have provided significant results for USFS-SR planning purposes:

- We completed the Light Detection and Range (LiDAR) layers for the forest vegetation to provide precision spatial information on forest cover, forest density, volume, biomass, and height for habitat, fire and forest products management.
- We completed the ground survey of hazardous wildland (forest) fuels to aid USFS-SR Fire Management staff's identification of wildland fire potential.
- We completed an accounting of carbon stocks and fluxes for the forest areas from 1951-2001 to meet Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change standards.

Excelled in environmental, occupational safety and health performance

During Fiscal Year 2010, the USFS-SR had one restricted work day due to an injury, zero lost-work-days due to injuries, and four "Occupational Safety and Health Administration 300 Log" recordable injuries. Our employees and contractors reported 335,474 hours worked and 190,562 vehicle miles driven.

The Environmental Management System Fiscal Year 2009 annual report was sent to the USDA Forest Service Regional Office, 10/30/2009.

USFS-SR is an active participant in the DOE Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) which has resulted in a higher level of safety awareness and sound application of safety requirements. USFS-SR submitted the required annual ISMS declaration to DOE-SR on October 21, 2010.

Continued Environmental Restoration

The Savannah River Site's Soil and Groundwater Closure Projects phytoremediation pond, administered by USFS-SR, treated approximately 30.5 million gallons of tritiated water. This project employs a natural remedy, phytoremediation, using natural vegetative processes to reduce risk to the environment. Additionally, USFS-SR provided management of the vegetation throughout the year for 355 acres of caps, including mowing four times per year, pesticide and herbicide application, use of prescribed fire, and seeding. To allow access for SRS well monitoring, we also managed the vegetation at 5,701 well sites.

Maintained infrastructure systems in a safe and environmentally sound state of operational readiness

USFS-SR suppressed nine SRS wildland fire incidents ranging in size from 0.1 acres to 8.5 acres. USFS-SR has provided additional protection from wildland fire to SRS and those communities bordering the SRS by responding to two mutual aid fires that potentially threatened SRS, ranging in size from 13 to 20 acres.

USFS-SR maintained the SRS secondary roads, including blading and application of calcium chloride to reduce dust, and constructed one mile of secondary road in support of site activities. USFS-SR also maintained 27 miles of multipurpose trails, used primarily by SRS wellness programs. USFS-SR maintained 60 miles of SRS boundary fence and 30 miles of exterior boundary (discing).

Reduced risk of catastrophic wildland fires at SRS through systematic and safe application of prescribed fire

USFS-SR improved safety and security through reduction of hazardous forest fuels across the SRS landscape by applying prescribed fire to 26,123 acres within the SRS boundary.

Communicated SRS stewardship

Outreach efforts to educate stakeholders about managing SRS natural resources reached the community in fiscal year 2010, through *Take Our Children to Work Day*, SRS Ultimate Turkey Hunt, SRS Safety Blitz, DOE Integrated Safety Management National Workshop, SRS CSRA College Night. Public communication included news releases (one), elementary school visits by *Smokey Bear* (16), community events (Atomic City Festival, Sweet Potato Festival, and the New Ellenton Christmas Parade), as well as newsletters of monthly accomplishments. Internal and external planning and communications included participation in SRS Citizens Advisory Board Combined and Committee meetings. USFS-SR also provided support to the SRS Heritage Foundation and the Ellenton Heritage Trail committees interpreting the stewardship of the former private lands.



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